



ALA MOANA/KAKA'AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 11

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006

MAKIKI CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CALL TO ORDER: Treasurer Joyce Kurtz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was not present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Hedlund, Larry Hurst, Joyce Kurtz, Dyane Sih.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Breinich, Robert Fowler, Jennifer Gerard, Marilyn Michaels.

GUESTS: Jay Ishibashi (Mayor's Representative), Ed Honda (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's office), Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's office), Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristi Su-Ako (Senator Trimble's office), Captain John Kino (HFD), Assistant Chief Michael Tucker, Maj. Randy Macadangdang, Capt. Thomas Grossi, Lt. Bennett Martin and Sgt. Roy Tsujioka (HPD), Howard Tanaka (BWS), Lester Chang (DPR), Daniel Dinell (HCDA), Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Mark Tonini (Meadow Gold), Jeff Dinsmore (General Growth), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board), Steve Foster (Honolulu Triathlon), Mike P. (Hawai'i Convention Center), Roy Gritter, Jack Hamada, Frances Shintani, Rex Saunders, Sonia Trimble, Steve J. Rodrigues (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT: Captain John Kino reported: 1) For the month of February, the Pawaa Fire Station responded to 12 fires, 140 medical emergencies, 8 search and rescues, and 12 miscellaneous calls. 2) Safety Tip: "Brush fires cause great damage. Dispose of all fires properly. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing vegetation-surrounding structures. Formulate emergency plans. For more information, contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise at 281-3497 or visit www.firewise.org.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT: Sgt. Roy Fujioka gave a report on the statistics for February and January: 5/5 robberies; 14/23 burglaries; 89/88 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle); 35/36 auto thefts; 6/4 aggravated assaults; 44/34 simple assaults; 213/209 motor vehicle collisions; 35/27 DUI; 7/2 sex assault; 14/18 family offenses; 53/51 drug offenses, 7/1 graffiti.

Maj. Randy Macadangdang introduced himself. He is the new major for this district. Also introduced, were Assistant Chief Michael Tucker, Capt. Thomas Grossi, and Lt. Bennett Martin (Traffic Division).

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hurst acknowledged Frances Shintani, her fellow citizen patrol members, and Roy Gritter for painting out graffiti in the community.
- 2) Hedlund said area residents are concerned about drinking and noise at the promenade. Sgt. Fujioka suggested calling 911 the next time it occurs.
- 3) A resident mentioned there are homeless at Thomas Square. Randy Macadangdang noted the homeless is a social issue. It is HPD's responsibility to address illegal camping. The community can call 911 and officers will make checks. Besides the recent closure of Ala Moana Beach Park, A'ala Park also has closing hours.
- 4) Hurst stated the citizen patrol discovered an individual smoking "ice" in his vehicle and called 911. Members of the citizen patrol had concerns that patrol officers are never seen in the community. Maj. Macadangdang encouraged the community to be the eyes and ears for HPD. It's a quality of life issue.
- 5) Hedlund had concerns regarding the homeless. It's been an ongoing issue. Maj. Macadangdang stated the Mayor is working with the State to come up with solutions. It's not a criminal offense to be homeless. Officers do address illegal camping, drugs, etc. They do not target one group.



- 6) Hurst asked that when the next HPD Citizen Patrol Class is held to send the information to the Board. Maj. Macadangdang will follow-up.
- 7) Sih mentioned after last month's meeting, the tents were gone from Ala Moana Beach Park, but they came back and there were four additional tents. The homeless issue has been discussed for years but the State and City haven't addressed the issue. Maj. Macadangdang stated the homeless moved out today. He doesn't know where they will be going. Hopefully, there will be some changes. A temporary solution is to house the homeless above HPD's Headquarters parking lot. The homeless are also citizens of our community.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Howard Tanaka reported: 1) There were three main breaks in the district in February (February 21-22: Pensacola – Kamaile Streets; February 23: South Street near Reed Lane) and four thus far in March (March 1-2: Koula Street near Ala Moana Boulevard; March 8: Kelikoi Street, west of Ohe Street; March 20: Waimanu Street near Pensacola Street). 2) There are no ongoing water construction projects. Kapiolani Boulevard Water and Sewer Improvement Project – They are processing construction contract documents as well as the contract for the construction manager. After the contracts are executed, the construction manager will meet with the contractor on the construction schedule. Once the schedule is established, BWS will hold informational meetings to share the schedule details with the public. Construction is expected to begin in July. 3) Although Detect-a-Leak Week was earlier this month, BWS wants to encourage you to check for leaks year-round. A toilet can waste 60 gallons a day or about 20,000 gallons per year if not fixed.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Deferred due to a lack of quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS: There were no residents' concerns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND KEY ORGANIZATIONS:

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Filling of Vacancy in Subdistrict 1 – Deferred due to a lack of quorum.

Ala Moana Beach Park Update – Lester Chang, Director of Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), said the questions being asked are "Why now?" "Why Ala Moana Beach Park?" DPR has been working on a plan for a while now. They are doing it now because of the upcoming Governor's Summit on the homeless, which will be held on Thursday. The City is looking at the State taking the lead on this issue. The Mayor feels resources from the State are compatible with social services. DPR will temporarily close the Ala Moana Beach Park during night hours March 27 through April 25. The action is being taken to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public using the park. Beginning April 25, the entire park will be closed for three days for major maintenance and cleanup that will involve several City departments. The goal is to improve safety, maintenance and cleanliness. After the cleanup is completed, the plan remains open. They haven't made a decision. He would be glad to come back and give an update. They consider Ala Moana Beach Park one of the jewels of the parks. The park is open to all groups; they are not targeting the homeless. If anyone has any concerns and want it addressed before the next meeting, you can email him at lchang@honolulu.gov.

There was lengthy discussion on this issue. Concerns and comments included: 1) Chang answered: a) He drives by Ala Moana Beach Park during the day and sees some of the homeless; b) A'ala Park is closed between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.; c) The Ala Moana Beach Park closure was his decision because of health and safety reasons. He's here to get feedback; d) He would like a recommendation or resolution from the Board regarding this issue; e) For the three-day park closure, they would stop traffic at the entrance. He doesn't think they would put a chain to close the park. DPR doesn't have the manpower to have someone stationed at the entrance to say that the park is closed. Three-fourths of the parks across the island are closed at night; f) The park closure is a park rule they would impose; similar to Sheridan Park; g) The parking lot at Magic Island is closed between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.; h) He volunteered to come back next month and hear input; i) Twelve years ago, Magic Island belonged to the State; j) As Parks Director, his job is to keep the park clean and safe. It's

not DPR's responsibility to find people permanent housing. Where will the homeless go? Hopefully, social services providers will come up with solutions. The Mayor has come up with a short-term solution (i.e. above the Main Police Station parking lot). 2) Hedlund said the Board would like to be part of the planning process. 3) Maj. Macadangdang said officers on ATV's patrol on a daily basis. 4) Hurst mentioned the Board discussed closing Ala Moana Beach Park nine years ago. 5) A resident stated if you don't have a plan, you will have bigger problems. 6) Kurtz noted this item will be on next month's agenda.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Sih had no report.

Honolulu Triathlon – Steve Foster, Event Director for DeAxle Sports, stated this is the 3rd Honolulu Triathlon, which will be held on Mother's Day, May 14. This year's event will have a new course. It will begin at Ala Moana Beach Park with the swim portion, then the bicycle leg to Aloha Stadium and back, and then the running course through Kakaako. The previous course went from Kapiolani Park to Hawai'i Kai and back. Roads will be only closed for two hours. The biggest issue was notification. They have already spoken to all the major players (i.e. Aloha Tower Market Place, Navy, Air Force, etc.). They are also working with the Mayor's Office, HPD, and John Dominis restaurant. The financial benefit to the community is \$20 million. The goal is to eventually have 4,000 participants.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hedlund had concerns about the noise, such as a pep rally before the start of the event. Foster stated there would be no pep rally. The starter gun goes off at 6:00 a.m. They will turn down the decibels on the speakers, but you can expect noise at 6:00 a.m.
- 2) Hurst asked that flyers not be posted on utility poles. Foster said they do not put flyers on utility poles. If you see any, call him and he will personally take it down.

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE: Hurst announced that Board member Jennifer Gerard, who is resident manager for Waterfront Towers – Waterfront Towers was named Building of the Year for 2005.

Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) – Daniel Dinell reported: 1) The contract for painting and minor repairs of the Waterfront Park trellis and comfort station facilities were completed earlier this month. 2) Development of a Native Hawaiian Garden at Kewalo Basin Park to be designed, planted and maintained by Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School, is underway. The School is currently leasing part of the Net Shed as class space for its coastal education programs. 3) At last month's meeting, there was discussion on a proposed westbound entrance into Kewalo Basin and additional restroom facilities, but the Authority deferred action. 4) Queen Street improvements between Kamakee Street and Ward Avenue – the start of construction has been postponed until January 2007 in order to minimize disruption. The postponement also allows several planning and permitting issues relating to Queen Street to be complete prior to commencement of the improvements and ensure that it will not affect the project timetable during the busy year-end traffic for 2006. 5) Next week's HCDA meeting will include an update on Policy and Development Strategy Plan for the Ala Moana Historic Pump Station and developable lands in the Ewa portion of the Kakaako Makai area. The public is invited to the meeting.

Victoria Ward – Jeff Dinsmore gave a brief update on the demolition/construction of Ward Shops and Ala Moana Shopping Center. Construction will last 24 months. The rainy weather has delayed construction. For updated information on Ala Moana Shopping Center, visit www.AlaMoanaCenter.com. In two weeks, updated information for Victoria Ward will be available at www.VictoriaWard.com.

Hedlund had concerns about traffic at Ala Moana Shopping Center, as she sat in traffic for 12 minutes without moving. She suggested either a three-way stop sign or blocking the ramp. Dinsmore stated blocking the ramp is not a consideration. It's a short-term pain for a long-term gain.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION – No report.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project – Pat Lee said last week the City announced the station locations for the Fixed Guideway Alternatives. There are five station locations in this neighborhood. For more

information, visit www.honolulutransit.org or call the project hotline at 566-2299. Nalani Dahl is available to make a presentation; she can be reached at 531-4252, ext. 39 or email at ndahl@cpe-hawaii.com.

Bus Stop Realignment Project – James Burke of DTS, was not present to give an update.

Kurtz mentioned she called DTS to voice her concern that the Sheridan Street bus stop would be removed. Residents need that bus stop.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY/ LIQUOR AND ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS – Hurst asked to be on next month's agenda to review the Board's resolutions regarding liquor/adult establishments over the past nine years.

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – Kurtz had no report.

PARKS & WATERWAYS – Hedlund deferred her resolution requesting the Legislature to designate a Honolulu Historic Waterfront District from Nu'uuanu Stream to Kewalo Basin and require the appropriate community-based master planning process for this historic district.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Governor's Representative – Daniel Dinell stated Dr. Chiyome Fukino sends her regrets. He circulated the "Governor's Update". Dr. Fukino wanted everyone to know to stay out of the water due to recent sewage spills. Murky water also attracts sharks.

Senator Carol Fukunaga – Kurtz said Senator Fukunaga sends her regrets. Her monthly report was circulated.

Senator Gordon Trimble – Kristi Sue-Ako circulated Senator Trimble's monthly report. Senator Trimble highlighted the following: 1) Last Tuesday, he voted no 116 times (including on special tax credits for public school teachers, but private school educators are not deemed equally deserving; and a \$10,000 rain damage tax credit for homeowners in Manoa, as if it only rains in Manoa). 2) Committee Chair Rule System – the committee chair has a gross disproportion of unchecked authority to control legislation and budgeting for the State's department/branch he oversees. The chair determines whether a bill is heard. There is supposed to be democracy, but there is only autocracy. 3) He and Senator Slom asked to defer the Akaka bill until the people of Hawai'i know what is in the bill.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hurst mentioned he quit participating at hearings for Liquor Commission bills because the only person in opposition was former Director Wallace Weatherwax.
- 2) A resident asked Senator Trimble his position on the Ala Moana Beach Park/homeless issue. Senator Trimble answered in real sense we are at the end of the road. A lot of people come to Hawai'i with financial problems, drug problems, etc. Nationally, when the economy gets better, homeless increases. A lot of these individuals have substance abuse and mental health problems. We can't as a society provide food and shelter for everyone.
- 3) Sih said there is a segment of the homeless who have jobs, but just can't afford to pay rent. Senator Trimble stated he proposed that the State give \$2000 per person to those who want to return to the mainland.
- 4) Hedlund mentioned there is a bill in the Legislature to consider trailer home parking and a project called H-5 (Robert's Overnighter buses would be used for the homeless)

Representative Bev Harbin – Representative Harbin sent her regrets.

Representative Scott Saiki – Councilmember Kobayashi circulated Representative Saiki's monthly report.

Representative Anne Stevens – No report or representative was available.

Mayor's Representative – Jay Ishibashi reported: 1) Donna Kiyosaki and Joan Manke send their regrets. 2) Today, City crews poured concrete to repair the sewer lines in Waikiki. A major weather front is coming toward Hawai'i. It will be the worst set of rains. 3) Homeless is a statewide issue; a problem that needs to be addressed. The City is

strapped for cash. 4) DTS changed the red light arrow at King and Pensacola Streets in December 2005. 5) Honolulu Centennial Festival – they are looking at postponing it a day because of the weather.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hurst said the King and Pensacola Street red light arrow has not been changed. Ishibashi will follow-up.
- 2) A resident mentioned in the northwest states they have a program to help the homeless when it rains. Ishibashi stated that faith-based groups offered to help the homeless. About eight of the homeless are still in front of Honolulu Hale. The City encouraged the homeless to go to shelters.
- 3) Hedlund noted that the Board voted against the festival. Kurtz asked if the wet grounds would support the Ferris wheel. Ishibashi answered yes.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Ed Honda circulated Councilmember Kobayashi's monthly report.

Councilmember Rod Tam – Shawn Hamamoto circulated Councilmember Tam's monthly report and was available for questions.

ADJOURNMENT: By consensus, the Board adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

Steve J. Rodrigues,
Neighborhood Assistant